

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
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DEPT FOR OES/AMBASSADOR BREWSTER
PARIS FOR UNESCO US REP AMB TORRES

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL, NP
SUBJECT: VISIT OF UNESCO DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW TO NEPAL

REF: KATHMANDU 3267 AND PREVIOUS

1. DURING UNESCO DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW SUCCESSFUL
VISIT TO NEPAL JUNE 15-19 (REFTEL) I HAD SEVERAL
OCCASIONS TO DISCUSS WITH HIM ROLE WHICH UNESCO AND
FOREIGN DONORS MIGHT PLAY IN PROTECTION AND RESTORATION
OF NUMEROUS UNIQUE MONUMENTS WHICH FORM A PART OF NEPAL'S
RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE. DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON MASTER
PLAN FOR CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE OF KATHMANDU
VALLEY PREPARED JOINTLY BY UNESCO AND UNDP TEAM UNDER
LEADERSHIP OF PROF. EDWARD SECKLER OF HARVARD. (REFTEL).

2. AT ONE OF OUR MEETINGS M'BOW SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN
IMPRESSED BY PLETHORA OF NEPAL'S MONUMENTS AND TEMPLES
IMPORTANCE OF WHICH WAS NOT FULLY APPRECIATED AROUND
THE WORLD. HE FELT THESE MONUMENTS SHOULD BE PUT ON
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MUPAR WITH AND RECEIVE SAME KIND OF URGENT ATTENTION AS
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS CURRENTLY ACCORDING SUCH
HISTORICAL SITES AS ACROPOLIS, VENICE, NUBIA AND
BOROBODUR. HE ADDED THAT MASTER PLAN WITH ITS
COMPREHENSIVE INVENTORY AND RECOMMENDATIONS PROVIDED
EXCELLENT FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION BY FOREIGN DONORS.
HOWEVER, MORE NEEDED TO BE DONE TO PUBLICIZE AND

DRAMATIZE MASTER PLAN AND HE HOPED TO CALL ATTENTION TO IT AT FORTHCOMING UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE IN PARIS.

3. IN THIS CONNECTION, M'BOW TOLD ME HE EXPECTED TO VISIT WASHINGTON IN EARLY JUNE. HE SAID HE EXPECTED TO BE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH YOUR OFFICE AND LOOKED FORWARD TO CALLING UPON PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY. DURING MEETINGS AT DEPARTMENT HE SAID HE WOULD RAISE SUBJECT OF MASTER PLAN AND SOLICIT US SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO IT. HE MENTIONED RECEIVING US FUNDS FOR RESTORATION PROJECTS ELSEWHERE IN ASIA AND WAS HOPEFUL THAT US WOULD HELP WITH MASTER PLAN.

4. PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO ALERT YOU TO MASTER PLAN AND TO M'BOW INTENTIONS TO RAISE IT WITH YOU AND POSSIBLY WITH SECRETARY. SHOULD YOU WISH ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON THIS DOCUMENT, COPY IS AVAILABLE IN NEA/INS. PAUL PERROT, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR MUSEUM PROGRAMS AT SMITHSONIAN AND/OR BROWN MORTON OF US/ICOMOS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, US DEPT OF THE INTERIOR ARE ALSO KNOWLEDGE-ABLE ON SUBJECT:. BOTH VISITED NEPAL IN APRIL WITH REPRESENTATIVE FROM UNESCO TO LOOK INTO MASTER PLAN AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION. IN ADDITION PROF. SECKLER, PRINCIPAL AUTHOR OF MASTER PLAN, HAPPENED TO BE IN KATHMANDU DURING M'BOW'S VISIT, MET WITH HIM AND IS PREPARED TO ASSIST FURTHER IN ANY USEFUL WAY DURING M'BOW'S VISIT TO WASH-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INGTON. SECKLER CAN BE REACHED AT HARVARD WHERE HE IS EXPECTED TO RETURN FROM CURRENT TRIP ABROAD ON OR ABOUT JULY 6.

5. GON HAS CONTRIBUTED SUBSTANTIAL FUNDS FROM ITS MEAGER RESOURCES TO PROTECTION OF MONUMENTS IN KATHMANDU VALLEY AND TO LOCAL COSTS TO PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. THESE INCLUDE GERMANS WHO HAVE LARGE RESTORATION PROJECT COMBINED WITH URBAN DEVELOPMENT SCHEME IN KATHMANDU VALLEY AND FRENCH AND JAPANESE WHO ARE ALSO ENGAGED IN RESTORATION WORK. I PERSONNALLY SUBSCRIBE WHOLEHEARTEDLY TO MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES. HOWEVER, IN ABSENCE OF ANY OFFICIAL US EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN THIS PROJECT EMBASSY HAS TAKEN BACKSEAT IN THIS ACTIVITY OTHER THAN TO URGE UPON GON MORE COORDINATED EFFORT AND TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF AMERICAN EXPERTS VISITING NEPAL TO STUDY MASTER PLAN. I MOST EARNESTLY HOPE THAT M'BOW'S VISIT WILL HELP FOCUS US ATTENTION ON MASTER PLAN AND GENERATE OFFICIAL SUPPORT OF IT.
HECK

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